

Introduction: How do we live out our theology (Colossians 1-2) every day?

Colossians 3:1-2. If we want to demonstrate we're an authentic believer, we have to:

- I. **SET OUR HEARTS AND OUR MINDS.** *“Since, then, you have been **raised** with Christ, (our theology) **SET your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.** 2] **SET your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** (A command?)*
 - A. **Notice both our AFFECTIONS and our THOUGHTS are involved in our GROWTH.**
 - Our **hearts** represent our affections; what we really enjoy and love.
 - Our **minds** represent how we think, what we meditate on and contemplate.
 - Our hearts shape our **passions**—Proverbs 4:23.
 - Our thoughts shape our **priorities**—Proverbs 14:15; Joshua 1:8.
 - B. **Notice this equation: Affections + Thoughts = ACTIONS (WHAT WE REALLY DO).**

A QUIZ

 1. What three things occupy us all the most? (Isn't what we **love, think, and do**?)
 2. So, where do YOU set YOUR **minds and hearts** the most? (See Prov. 23:7.)
 3. **HOW** do we set our hearts and minds so we'll maximize our spiritual growth?
 4. **WHERE** specifically **should** our hearts/minds be set? (There's a NO and a YES.)
 - C. **Paul describes the right focus/place in one word: ABOVE** - *“set...on things above...”*
 - It means we're beginning to think about life as God thinks, from His perspective.
 - It means for our general focus, we set our minds and hearts higher!
 1. Where **ABOVE** are we to **SET** our minds/hearts? *“...where Christ is, **seated** at...”*
 2. Where Christ is **seated** is a place of... (See Eph. 1:20-21.) It's a specific place of:
 - **AUTHORITY.** HE has ultimate control.
 - **POWER.** *“He's far above all rule...authority, power...”*—Eph. 1:21 (see Ps. 16:11).
 3. Again, how do we set our minds? Can we avoid distractions?
The power to do this is also found in one word: *“Since...**RAISED** with Christ...”*
 4. When we think about Jesus, what do we admire the most about Him? What's at the top of our list that really causes us to appreciate Him? (Phil. 3:10-11)
 - D. **To be more specific, here are 7 WAYS to HELP us set our hearts/minds on Christ.**
If we want to live differently, we need to concentrate on our affections and thinking.
 1. We need to end the night and begin each day with our thoughts (and affections) focused on Jesus (on the heart and mind of Jesus)—Heb. 3:1; Psalm 63:6-11.
 2. Let's also pray throughout the day that God would give us a heavenly perspective (mindset) on people and events—1 Tim. 2:1-4. (See **Storm Promises.**)

3. Let's make God's Word a part of our life every day—Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 119:147.
4. Spend time around others whose hope is in God...who have their eyes on God too—Isaiah 40:31 (Growth Groups, friendships, workmates, family and less media).
5. Fight our fears with a growing faith in JESUS. Do we trust HIM? Matt. 8:24-27
6. As we keep our affections and thoughts above, let's also specifically pray daily about our anxieties and concerns. (Why? See Phil 4:6-7, especially verse 7.)
6] *Do not be **anxious** about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

Summary: Prayer, petition, thanksgiving guards our heart and our mind.

Finally, where are we? Where are Christ followers to be?

7. We're to **be looking up** (Col. 3:1-2), but we're also to **be looking down**—Eph. 2:6.
 - **So where is Jesus?** Col. 3:1-2—*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set **your hearts** on things above, where Christ is, **seated at the right hand of God.** 2] Set **your minds on things above**, not on earthly things.*
 - **Where are we?** We're seated with Him! Eph. 2:4-6—*“And God raised **us up with Christ** and **SEATED US WITH HIM** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”*

Conclusion: So our position right now is, we are one with Christ at the right hand of God, far above ALL the earthly circumstances and environments! Our salvation brings us into the position of not only the **death and resurrection of Jesus**, but **we are also ascended with Christ**. So positionally, we can and should look **down and up!** But as we have seen, to maintain **this life of ascension**, we need to *“set our minds on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.”* In our daily life, to experience the reality of our position, we need to stay in touch with the Lord by enjoying and relating to Him constantly. This is not “super-spiritual” and “unattainable.” The Lord intends that we would be in continual contact with Him, so that He can live in us, and we can live in and with Him. What an awesome experience; we are seated together WITH HIM!

- **What's our choice?**
- **What will make the difference?** These seven simple ways (above) will make a huge difference in how and where we set our hearts and minds! Are we willing to do them?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Let's go back to the outline and ask some of the questions presented in this outline:

1. What 3 things occupy your minds the most? Where do you set your mind and heart the most? How does Prov. 23:7 (KJV) impact you; what does it say to you?
2. How do we set our hearts/minds in a way that will maximize our spiritual growth? Where **SHOULD** our hearts and minds be set?
3. Of all the **SEVEN WAYS** presented, what will be most helpful to you?
4. How will knowing we are seated together with Christ impact our everyday life; our prayers, our vision and our difficult moments?
5. Are you anxious about anything? (Reread Phil. 4:4-7 and pray about it.)